

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

COMMENDING MONTANA'S
LUPPOLD/BUCKINGHAM RANCH
FOR 150 YEARS OF FAMILY OWN-
ERSHIP

HON. MATTHEW M. ROSENDALE, SR.

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2023

Mr. ROSENDALE. Mr. Speaker, Montana's family-owned ranches are synonymous with the strength of our economy and the vitality of our communities.

That is why I'm so pleased to hear that the Montana Historical Society is honoring the Luppold/Buckingham Ranch in Meagher County for 150 years of family ownership.

Moving to Montana after his service in the Civil War, William Luppold established a small 160-acre ranch in 1866. By the time of his death in 1916, William had transformed the plot into a highly profitable cattle ranch of nearly 2,000 acres.

William Luppold's success is a testament to the natural abundance of our great state and the perseverance of his family. Successive generations have built upon William's vision by diversifying the ranch's business and leasing land to their neighbors.

The ranch passed to William's favorite niece, Emilia McStravick, and her daughter Gertrude, who retained ownership of the property for nearly 50 years before passing it on to Gertrude's nephew Frederick Buckingham in 1985.

Frederick would continue to carry on the family legacy for nearly three decades until his passing in 2018. Today, Frederick's niece Megan Shroyer and her husband Rodger own and operate the ranch on behalf of four generations that came before them.

Although the Luppolds and Buckinghams have seen tremendous success, the family acknowledges that maintaining such a sprawling property hasn't always been easy. Like many hard-working Montanans, their fortitude and dedication have paid dividends over the past two and half centuries, making the Luppold/Buckingham Ranch an enduring sign of Montana's prosperity.

I am proud that the Montana Historical Society sees fit to bestow this honor on the Luppold/Buckingham Ranch, and it is my pleasure to acknowledge the entire family in the United States House of Representatives.

RECOGNIZING TAMPA BAY'S
LOCAL TRAILBLAZER, BISHOP
PRESTON LEONARD, IN HONOR
OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2023

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with immense gratitude for Bishop Pres-

ton D.H. Leonard, who inspires us all through his lifetime of public service deeply rooted in his faith. For more than 60 years, he has served as pastor at Christ Gospel Church of St. Petersburg. Bishop Leonard is the only living pastor in the church's history and has the longest tenure of any pastor in the St. Petersburg area. He serves as the Presiding Bishop of Christ Kingdom International Fellowship and the International Bishop of the Christ Gospel Churches of Jamaica Apostolic, Haiti, and Ghana, Africa.

Bishop Leonard was born in the town of Lloyd, located in North Florida to Titus and Vannie (Walker) and he is the sixth of seven children. His commitment to his faith started early—at age 10 he became a member of the Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church in Monticello, Florida.

Bishop Leonard was baptized in 1954 and ordained later that year. Also in 1954, Bishop Leonard married the love of his life, the former Virginia Mosley. Together they share their seven children, 16 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Bishop Leonard and his family moved to St. Petersburg in 1957 and since then, he has been fiercely committed to his service to both God and our community across Tampa Bay through a broad range of experiences. For more than 40 years, he hosted a radio ministry broadcasted by The New 1590 WRXB, a longtime voice in the St. Petersburg African American community. He is a past president of the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance (IMA) and previously served on the Bi-Racial Advisory Committee of the Pinellas County School Board, the State Screening for Regulatory Committee, Ombudsmen Committee of the State Nursing Home, Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council, and the Area Agency of Aging. In 1997, he was recognized as Minister of the Year. Today, Bishop Leonard serves as a charter member of the St. Petersburg Community Alliance as well as on the Board of Directors of the IMA Human Services and the St. Petersburg Interfaith Alliance.

Bishop Leonard received both his bachelor's and master's degrees from International University. Before this he attended Florida A&M University, Jack Hyles Pastoral School, and Clyde Narramore Counseling School. He was also a member of the U.S. Navy CORPS in Bainbridge, Maryland.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Tampa Bay community, I am honored to recognize Bishop Preston D.H. Leonard for his lifelong dedication to service above self as well as his contribution to Tampa Bay's own African American history. Through his commitment to and celebration of his faith and his service to the community, Bishop Leonard is a representation of the best that Florida has to offer and his living legacy serves as an example to all.

RECOGNIZING JOHN CHATBURN

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2023

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor John Chatburn. John is retiring after nearly 30 years of public service in Idaho, but his love of our great state didn't start there. He grew up on a family ranch in Albion and was well known on the local rodeo circuit as a young man. He started his political career in 1995 as the Energy and Natural Resource Policy Advisor for Governor Phil Batt. John wore many hats, including Deputy Administrator for the Idaho Department of Agriculture.

A large part of his career was spent working for Governor C.L. 'Butch' Otter. He served as his Administrator for the Office of Energy and Mineral Resources. Some of his responsibilities in this capacity included being a member of the U.S. Department of Energy/State Energy Advisory Board, chairman of the Western Interstate Energy Board and co-chairman on the Committee on Regional Electric Power Cooperation. There were many other energy related boards and commissions that he served on and represented Idaho's interests.

He also worked for Governor Brad Little as Administrator of the Office of Energy and Mineral Resources and was appointed by him to serve on the Idaho Public Utilities Commission.

I have known John for a very long time, but I had the opportunity to work closely with him on the Gateway West Project. John represented the state's interests in the plan to create a much-needed power transmission line that spanned a vast section of the state. In the end, we were successful in creating a diverse collaboration between stakeholders that included the World Center for Birds of Prey, Idaho Power Company, the Bureau of Land Management and the citizens of Idaho—something we can all be proud of.

I am not sure what John is going to do next, but it better include pampering his incredible wife Linda who's put up with him for over 40 years. I thank Mr. Chatburn for his service.

HONORING BETTY SMITH

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2023

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable servant, Betty Smith.

Betty Hughes Smith, was born June 6, 1953, in Drew, MS. She is the youngest, of her siblings. Betty graduated from Drew High School, May 25, 1971. Her class was the first class to integrate the all white segregated high school. This was the one of the happiest moments of her life.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

After graduation, Betty started working for Sunflower Humphrey Counties Progress, Inc., at the Drew Head Start Center. She retired after 25 years. During that time, she received her Associate Degree from Coahoma Community College. Although she attended both Mississippi Valley State University and Delta State University, she received her Bachelor of Science Degree in Early Childhood from Lemoyne Owen College, in Memphis, TN.

Betty has worked for Southern Echo and Genesis Hospice, as a Community Outreach Coordinator and Educator. She volunteered for the Drew School District for many years.

Betty was a Sunday School Teacher for Noah Memorial Baptist Church for over 20 years until the church closed. Then, she became a member of Holly Grove Missionary Baptist Church, where she is currently a Sunday School Teacher and the Chairperson for the Mother and Mission of the Church. In her lifetime, she has served on various boards throughout Sunflower County:

- Sunflower Humphrey Counties Progress Board of Directors;
- Tallahatchie Housing;
- Sunflower County Democratic Executive Committee;
- Community Health Advisory Research Program;
- We2Gether Creating Change;
- Vice President of Drew United for Progress;
- Drew Collaborative;
- Civil Rights Committee;
- Sunflower County Economic Development Board; and
- Drew Food Pantry.

She has received many certificates, awards, and plaques for her efforts in community service. She has been a tremendous asset to her church and community. Her motivation seems to be prompted by a need to help others, and that is what serving God is all about.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Betty Smith for her dedication and tenacity to serving her community and desire to be an example for all.

RECOGNIZING TAMPA BAY'S
LOCAL TRAILBLAZER, DR.
DAVINA JONES, IN HONOR OF
BLACK HISTORY MONTH

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2023

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great educator and leader in the Tampa Bay community, Dr. Davina Arleen Jones.

Dr. Jones is one of six children, born and raised in the Tampa Bay area. Her mother worked for the county library as a book processor and her father was a city bus operator while also serving as a full-time pastor. Dr. Jones' parents instilled in her and her siblings the importance of commitment, leadership, and the spiritual faith—values she holds close to this day. At the early age of 13, a young Davina Jones gave her first public speech at a Church of God in Christ (COGIC) youth convention.

When she was a young student, Dr. Jones was enrolled in Exceptional Student Education (ESE) in Hillsborough County Public Schools

due to the many challenges in her life, but the challenges would only reveal her drive for education and excellence. Through hard work and perseverance, Dr. Jones went on to graduate from Bethune-Cookman University with a bachelor's degree in speech communication. She later went on to receive her master's degree in interpersonal communications and her doctorate in communication studies from Bowling Green State University. These significant accomplishments led Dr. Jones to author "From ESE to PHD: Discovering your hidden potential." She is also the author of "Choices: What singles ought to know and what married people wished they had learned."

Dr. Jones served as a frontline partner as Florida and our Nation prepared to receive and embrace the historic Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune statue in the Statuary Hall of the U.S. Capitol in 2022. Dr. Bethune's statue replaced the statue of a Confederate general that stood since the Jim Crow era and Dr. Jones advocated for Dr. Bethune as a far superior representative of the values and diversity of the Sunshine State. Dr. Jones continues to lift her community as a proud member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., a former president of the Mary McLeod Bethune National Alumni Association Hillsborough Chapter, a former president of the Bethune Cookman National Association Hillsborough Chapter, and Big Brothers and Big Sisters. Dr. Jones also actively collaborates with the African American Task Force for Hillsborough County Public Schools leadership.

Dr. Jones also continues to provide faith-based community leadership throughout the City of Tampa. She is the Assistant Spiritual Leader of Today's Church Tampa Bay and former lead pastor and teacher of the Greater Love Spiritual Center. In 2015, Dr. Jones moved on her desire to educate and inspire passion to our younger generation when she founded GREAT Camp, a comprehensive program for teens and preteens that offers guidance and development in a variety of topics and skills such as civics development, health & wellness, and financial literacy. Considering all her education, hard work and accomplishments, Dr. Jones stated that her greatest achievement in life was becoming aware of the power of love, the love for oneself and the love for others through God.

Throughout the years, Dr. Jones has instructed public speech communication courses across the State of Florida. Using her expertise and experience, she has provided higher education level instruction to aspiring journalists, marketers and educators within our communities. Dr. Jones served as an assistant professor teaching speech communication at her alma mater Bethune-Cookman in 2001; she became a professor at Florida State College at Jacksonville and she is currently provost and special assistant to the president for equity, diversity and inclusion at Pasco-Hernando State College in Wesley Chapel. She continues her work among Pasco-Hernando State College leadership ensuring that all students receive the education they deserve.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Tampa Bay community, this Black History Month, I am proud to recognize the courage, leadership, and spirit of excellence of Dr. Davina Arleen Jones and her many examples of service she provides our communities.

HONORING THE FAIRFIELD FALCONS GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM FOR WINNING THE 3A STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. RUDY YAKYM III

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2023

Mr. YAKYM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to highlight and celebrate a very special group of Hoosiers.

Recently the Fairfield Falcons Girls Basketball Team out of Goshen, Indiana captured the 3A state title for the very first time in school history.

The Falcons' 49–42 win over Corydon Central in Indianapolis on Saturday was exhilarating, and extra special as it marked Fairfield's first state trophy in any sport.

We've all heard the maxim "defense wins championships" and for the Falcons it turned out to be true.

All season long the Falcons defense was downright stingy, allowing the fewest points per game out of any team in Indiana.

But it wasn't only because of their defense that the Falcons are celebrating.

In particular, Head Coach Brodie Garber credits the 4 senior girls he is graduating for consistently providing the leadership and mentorship needed for his team to take home the title.

Congrats to Coach Garber and all the Falcons—both players and staff—on bringing home the hardware. Their names are listed below:

Varsity Team Members:

Brea Garber, Morgan Gawthrop, Kaylee Dillon, Delana Geiger, Jayslynn Hall, Savannah Cronin, Zoie Miller, Haddee Herbert, Eva Herbert, Bailey Willard, Natalie Whitaker, Macy Worthman.

Coaches:

Head Coach Brodie Garber, Amy Garber, Troy Sands, Lindsay Kauffman.

Managers:

Ava Bontrager, Kealee Dillon.

I thank them for making Hoosiers in Goshen and beyond so incredibly proud.

God Bless them and God Bless America.

COMMENDING MONTANA PHOTO-JOURNALIST LARRY MAYER FOR UNCOVERING THE CHINESE SPY BALLOON

HON. MATTHEW M. ROSENDALE, SR.

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2023

Mr. ROSENDALE. Mr. Speaker, when a Chinese balloon invaded Montana's airspace, the Biden Administration intended to keep the American people in the dark.

But what President Biden didn't count on was the diligent work of Billings Gazette photographer Larry Mayer.

Larry pointed his lens skyward when federal regulators shut down Billings Logan International Airport and captured one of the first public images of a strange object floating in American skies.

Larry may not have known it at the time, but by following his instincts, he uncovered a national security risk from Communist China that

Biden and his allies had not disclosed to Congress or the American people.

China remains one of the greatest foreign threats to American national security. It's inexcusable that the Administration failed to inform the public when this threat was identified and even more alarming that the President didn't take steps to prevent such a breach of American sovereignty.

The government is responsible for ensuring our safety, security, and privacy. But thankfully, when the Administration failed to take this threat seriously, Larry Mayer was there.

Larry's images of the Chinese spy balloon represent the best qualities of American journalism. By uncovering this inexcusable lapse in our Nation's security, Larry has proven that even seemingly innocuous situations can have much more serious implications.

Larry Mayer's dedication to the job is the definition of patriotism in action. His work uncovering this disappointing failure by President Biden allows me and countless other public officials to hold the administration accountable.

Americans everywhere owe Larry a debt of gratitude for documenting this dangerous violation of American airspace. I hope all will join me in commending Larry Mayer's actions, and it is my pleasure to acknowledge him in the United States House of Representatives.

RECOGNIZING TAMPA BAY'S
LOCAL TRAILBLAZER, MORDECAI
WALKER. IN HONOR OF BLACK
HISTORY MONTH

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2023

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise during Black History Month to honor the life of an extraordinary leader, educator and pillar of the St. Petersburg community, Mr. Mordecai Walker.

Mr. Walker was born in Citrus Park in rural Hillsborough County on July 4, 1924, to Charlie and Pearl Walker. He attended segregated schools in Hillsborough County—Citrus Park School for colored children, Booker T. Washington Junior High and Middleton High School, where he graduated in 1943. Mr. Walker started his college education at Bethune-Cookman University where he had the distinct honor of shaking the hand of First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt and Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune. However, as the war continued in Europe and the south Pacific, Mr. Walker was drafted into the U.S. Army, where he served overseas in New Guinea.

After attaining the rank of Sergeant and completing his enlistment in 1946, Mr. Walker returned to higher education at Tennessee State University (TSU) where he completed his bachelor's degree in agriculture and then he went on to earn his master's degree in agriculture from Florida A & M University. As a student at TSU, Mr. Walker was an essay winner for writing "America's Most Popular Athlete"—writing that Joe Louis was more popular than Jackie Robinson. For winning the essay, he was given an all-expenses paid trip to New York City to see Joe Louis fight. During that trip Mr. Walker remembers going to an integrated New York City theater to see *Gone with the Wind*.

While at TSU, Mr. Walker competed on the track team with Olympian Mickey Patterson and Ed Temple, who later became an Olympic coach. In 1950, he was initiated into the Rho Psi Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. Mr. Walker would go on to become one of the original seven founders of the Eta Rho graduate chapter in St. Petersburg, FL in 1962, where he also served as the Chapter Basileus from 1991 through 1993. After more than 70 years of service, Mr. Walker remains active in the local chapter and is still committed to Omega's four cardinal principals of Manhood, Scholarship, Perseverance and Uplift.

After graduating from TSU, Mr. Walker returned to Tampa to teach at Simmons Elementary School in Plant City and later Middleton High School in Tampa, where he was a driving force in establishing the agriculture program. Mr. Walker was pivotal in creating a curriculum and funding sources to bring the program to fruition. After his short stint in Hillsborough County, he relocated to Pinellas County, where he spent more than 30 years teaching, advancing and developing agricultural programs. Mr. Walker was inducted into TSU's Agriculture Hall of Fame for his more than 30 years of service to advancing the field of agriculture in education. In 2019, he was also inducted into the City of St. Petersburg Senior Hall of Fame for his services of volunteering to help the quality of life for residents of St. Petersburg.

Mr. Walker is known for overcoming adversity. Coming of age in an era of segregation, Mr. Walker acted with dignity and grace, showing respect to everyone around him even when he was not afforded that same respect. During the Civil Rights movement, he was active in the Ambassador's Club, which was a civic club that worked to address the ongoing fight for civil rights, as well as celebrating the community's achievements during this time.

Mr. Walker is the oldest living member of the Historic Gas Plant Community, which was the second African American neighborhood formed in St. Petersburg. This historic community thrived from business, entertainment, and education. It was the place for working class African Americans. Unfortunately, many families were eventually uprooted during the expansion of Interstate-275 during the 1970's.

Mr. Speaker, today I join with the entire community of St. Petersburg in honoring Mr. Mordecai Walker for his long commitment to education, bettering the lives of all those around him and as a living legacy.

HONORING DICK'S PLACE

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2023

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a long-time business in Hinds County, MS, Dick's Place. Dick's Place has shown what can be done through consistency, dedication, and a desire to serve.

In 1949, Richard Anderson obtained a piece of land on Highway 80 near Bolton, MS. During this time, Highway 80 was a major thoroughfare for cars and buses. On the newly purchased land, he would create a juke joint named "Dick's Place." With the advent of Interstate 20, the original building had to be

demolished and the business moved to its current location, 2625 S. Frontage Road in Clinton, in 1952. Starting out in it was more country store than juke joint. Barbeque was introduced as a mainstay, leading to the juke joint growing even more.

For Dick's Place to survive and remain a safe place for African Americans during the height of the Civil Rights Movement, dues had to be paid to keep the doors open. Several times attempts were made to firebomb the establishment. Richard Anderson, Sr. recalls watching a white Mississippi State Trooper pull off the side of the road, throw a Molotov-cocktail-type bomb right at the front door, then get in his car and drive away. Gathering while black wasn't a crime by law, but it was seen as threat to White Supremacists in the area.

Dick's Place is now owned by Richard Anderson, Jr., who took over the business in 1984 when his father passed. Dick's Place is open daily from noon until whenever, and to be sure, Dick's Place is welcoming to all. Day in and day out, you will find the one-of-a-kind, Lorraine Henderson, tending bar and keeping the kitchen popping. She is the heartbeat of Dick's Place and has been for the last 28 years. Right next door is Richie's One Stop, also owned by the family.

The theme of this year's anniversary was—Being Thankful. This was the first in-person anniversary celebration since COVID, and about 100 patrons were treated to a real treat on Sunday evenings. It was a grand occasion, and the unique spirit felt that evening was the same spirit felt that kept it surviving and thriving for seventy-three years and counting.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Dick's Place for its 73 years of service in the State of Mississippi.

HONORING THE INCREDIBLE
SERVICE OF SOPHIE PABIS

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2023

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an incredible milestone reached by Sophie Graczewski Pabis of Enfield, Connecticut, who turns 100 on March 13, 2023. A lifelong resident of Enfield, Sophie has lived out what it means to be a first-generation American, purposing her time on this earth with patriotic, service- and community-oriented acts. She is a model citizen who we all ought to honor.

Born 1923, to Polish immigrants John and Helen Graczewski, Sophie learned early on the value of humble living and hard work. Growing up on a farm with two sisters and four brothers, Sophie worked on the fields to support her family throughout the Great Depression. She began her education in a one room schoolhouse and eventually moved on to Hazardville Grammar School and later Enfield High School, where she graduated in 1940.

Her first two jobs, in 1941, were at an ice cream parlor and a company that made electric switches, beginning the latter in September of that year. Her life trajectory changed, however, with the attack on Pearl Harbor and our nation's entry into the Second World War. Sophie felt an immediate calling to join the global effort. She rolled up her sleeves

and by March 1942 applied for training at Pratt and Whitney, enlisting as one of the iconic, "Rosie the Riveters."

Beginning at age 19, Sophie picked up 6 shifts a week as a drill press operator and then turret lathe through to the end of the war. Equipped with the symbolism of the all-too-known uniform—the blue overalls, head turban, and her own toolbox—Sophie was one of the Homefront heroes our nation relied upon during the war. Many of us in this chamber know that Allied Forces won the war due to the United States' ability to outproduce the Axis Powers. That is in thanks to citizens like Sophie.

The importance of Sophie's service at Pratt and Whitney cannot be overstated. That is why a part of her story is already archived in the World War II Home Front National Park Museum. However, we also ought to recognize Sophie's diligence in her profession, which instilled even further within her a value for hard work and an ability to address challenging situations. By 1946, the year following the conclusion of the war, Sophie returned to Pratt's engineering office to fill out those values. She, like many after the war, also began to settle into a new post-war life and met her would-be-husband, Mitchell L. Pabis, who also served overseas in Germany. They married in 1948. It was only when they began expecting their children that Sophie took time off from Pratt & Whitney. Together, they raised their two sons, Mitchell and Richard, and remained happily married until Mitchell Senior's unfortunate passing in 2001.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to bring attention to Sophie's immense community presence throughout her life. For example, she has volunteered at Saint Adelbert's School library and served as a Eucharistic Minister at Saint Adelbert's Church, worked with the Little Sisters of the Poor, and has been a member of the American Legion John Maciolek Unit 154 Auxiliary for 75 years.

On March 13, 2023, Sophie will celebrate her 100th birthday. Sophie truly does belong to the Greatest Generation, and we can all take from her example. I am beyond honored to represent constituents of such quality. To that end, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating her incredible, continuing life by recognizing this milestone of hers.

RECOGNIZING TAMPA BAY'S
LOCAL TRAILBLAZER,
BRIDGETTE HELLER, IN HONOR
OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2023

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today during Black History Month to celebrate a change agent and one of Tampa Bay's most accomplished businesswomen, Ms. Bridgette Heller. Ms. Heller was born and raised in St. Petersburg, Fla. She attended segregated schools through elementary school, but credits success during her formative years to being raised by a village of love that had very high standards for her. She achieved a higher education at Northwestern University, earning a bachelor's degree, then master's from the Kellogg Graduate School of Management. Ms.

Heller continues to contribute to her alma mater serving on the University's Board of Trustees and mentoring the next generation of business leaders.

After graduating from Northwestern University, Ms. Heller spent more than 35 years serving in leadership positions in numerous Fortune 100 companies and private equity-owned enterprises, such as Johnson & Johnson, Merck, Danone and Kraft Foods, where she worked for more than 18 years. While serving as executive vice president of Merck and president of its consumer care division, she led an organization of approximately 2,400 employees and helped the company expand across the globe. In honor of all her many accomplishments in the business world, Ms. Heller was named one of The 50 Most Powerful Black Women in Business by Black Enterprise Magazine, a Women to Watch by Advertising Age, and Healthcare Businesswomen's Association Women of the Year. She also founded her own consulting firm and has served as a corporate director for numerous companies.

Ms. Heller is an advocate for diversity, equity and inclusion, and has traveled the world to reinforce infant and maternal health, inclusive C-suite for women, and sustainable communities. She is a co-founder and CEO of the Shirley Proctor Puller Foundation (SPPF), named in honor of her mother. Under her leadership, the SPPF established the MASTR kids program, initially focused on helping to minimize the summer learning loss students experience in between terms. The program achieved remarkable results—80 percent of the students enrolled avoided the summer slide, and three quarters experienced gains in their math and reading proficiencies.

Ms. Heller also continues to give back to her community by helping the youth of south St. Petersburg bridge the achievement and literacy gaps. Her work has allowed countless students to advance their education in STEM fields and improve both their math and reading aptitude. She has worked tirelessly to achieve her long-term goal of improving the educational experience and outcomes—raising high school and college graduation rates, which will lead to better economic opportunities, and a more prosperous St. Petersburg.

Ms. Heller serves on the board of The Foundation for a Healthy St. Petersburg, working to provide equity and prosperity to her community, treating not just the symptoms of inequality, but creating a community built to benefit all. By providing both project funding and training sessions, she gives those in her community the tools to improve their lives and fuel innovation.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Tampa Bay community, I am honored to recognize the outstanding accomplishments, leadership and service of Ms. Bridgette Heller, who stands as a shining example of the tremendous impact of hard work, nurturing others and service to the community to encourage others to reach their highest potential.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF
LAUREN VERDICH

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2023

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of LGBTQ activist, community advocate, and friend Lauren Verdich.

During the mid-1980s, Lauren became part of a group of volunteers at the AIDS Memorial Quilt Display at Navy Pier who came together to provide hot meals to homebound Chicagoans with HIV/AIDS. She helped to found Open Hand, an organization which served meals to people impacted by HIV/AIDS, and which still lives on today as part of Heartland Health Alliance.

She pursued her passion for cooking by starting Lauren's Catering in 1986, donating tens of thousands of dollars' worth of goods and services to nonprofits over the years. She was a founding member of the Chicago Area Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce, founded in 1995. To honor all of her achievements, Verdich was inducted into Chicago's LGBT Hall of Fame in 2015.

I was honored to have her join my LGBT Advisory Committee and help educate me on the needs of the LGBT community in my district. She was a strong force, a fearless advocate and a friend who will be missed.

She is survived by her spouse Gail Morse; son Jordan Wolski and their son Zachery Wolski; daughter Dana Bennett; sisters Roberta Heinrich, Andrea Reich and Linda Mankoff; brother Steven Isaacson; loving nieces and nephews; countless friends and those whose lives she touched.

HONORING DR. NORA GOUGH-
DAVIS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2023

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a tenacious and self-motivated leader, Dr. Nora Gough-Davis. Dr. Nora Gough-Davis has had a fascination for the medical field since she was young, watching her dad, the late Dr. Walter C. Gough, tirelessly serve the rural MS Delta.

Dr. Gough-Davis is a native of Mound Bayou, MS. She is also the daughter of Mrs. May Bailey Gough. She received a B.S. in Biology and Chemistry from Mississippi Valley State University (MVSU) in 1999, graduating as Valedictorian of her class. During her academic years at MVSU, Dr. Gough-Davis was a Presidential Scholar for all four academic years, a member of the Mississippi Alliance for Minority Participation (MAMP), Beta Kappa Chi Honor Society, the Women's Basketball Team, and the Eta Alpha Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

Upon graduating from MVSU, Dr. Gough-Davis began a career as a science and pre-algebra teacher, girls' basketball assistant coach and girls' softball head coach for the North Bolivar School District. In 2003, the girls' basketball team achieved their first Girls' State 2A Basketball Championship.

In 2002, Dr. Gough-Davis earned a MS in Natural Science from Delta State University (DSU) in Cleveland, MS. In 2005, Dr. Gough-Davis received a BSN and in 2009, she received a MS in Nursing from DSU. In 2012, she received a MBA with a focus in Health Care Management from the University of Phoenix. In 2014, she received a Doctor of Nursing Practice Degree from DSU.

In June 2009, Dr. Gough-Davis began her career as a Family Nurse Practitioner at North Delta Medicine Clinic in Clarksdale, MS. In August 2012, Dr. Gough-Davis opened her own family practice clinic, Shaw Family Medical, LLC in Shaw, MS. In August 2016, she re-opened her mother and late father's clinic, Gough's Family Medical Clinic in Drew, MS. She has served as a clinical preceptor for at least 26 nurse practitioner students from various universities. Several of the nurse practitioner students have progressed to opening their own clinics in the MS Delta.

In August 2020, Dr. Gough-Davis began her career as an Assistant Professor of Nursing at the Robert E. Smith School of Nursing at Delta State University. In August 2021, she was assigned an additional role as the Undergraduate Program Coordinator.

Dr. Gough-Davis's favorite quote is "If I can help somebody as I pass along, then my living shall not be in vane."

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Dr. Nora Gough-Davis for her dedication, leadership and advocacy in healthcare. Her selfless service to her community, the Rural MS Delta Region, and the State of Mississippi are commended.

RECOGNIZING TAMPA BAY'S
LOCAL TRAILBLAZER, DR. JOHN
SMITH, JR., IN HONOR OF BLACK
HISTORY MONTH

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2023

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today during Black History Month with immense gratitude for the life of service of veteran and retired educator, Dr. John L. Smith, Jr. Because of Dr. Smith's long-standing commitment and dedication to education and leadership, higher learning institutions throughout the United States are advancing diversity and inclusion at the highest levels. He charted a course through music, the arts and education that serves as an inspiration for future generations.

Dr. Smith was born in Bastrop, LA. on Sept. 14, 1938. He is a veteran of the U.S. Navy and was honorably discharged after four years of service. Dr. Smith earned his bachelor's degree in music education from Lincoln University and then his master's degree in music education from Indiana University. Dr. Smith also went on to earn his doctorate from the University of Missouri-Kansas City with postgraduate study at Harvard University. Dr. Smith is married to Dr. Juel Shannon Smith and they share seven children, nine grandchildren and five great grandchildren together.

Dr. Smith's memoir titled *Mentors Matter: One Black Man's Journey to Success* highlights the role many of his mentors played in nurturing and inspiring his interest in classical

music and the sousaphone. His life's path was so outside the norm, it is inspiring to learn how each of his mentors, Black and white, kept him on track until he reached goals that few other Black men of his time had achieved.

Dr. Smith is a nationally recognized and accomplished musician. For more than 60 years, he has dedicated his time to playing the tuba. In 1962, he was named the first African American principal tubist for a professional American symphony orchestra. Dr. Smith was the first African American to receive a full-time appointment with the Oklahoma City Symphony. In 1966, Dr. Smith was appointed as Chairman of the Music Department at Langston University and modified the curriculum to be more African American centered. Also, during his tenure there, he produced a summer Black Arts Festival.

Dr. Smith's talent and commitment to students did not go unrecognized. In 1972, he was appointed as the first Tuba professor at the University of South Florida. His work to create an inclusive environment for Black students was tremendous and includes serving as founder and president of the Committee on Black Affairs, increasing Black faculty and administrators, and creating a Black student support group. Dr. Smith's leadership in these roles led to the establishment of the Institute on Black Life and the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. campus plaza.

In 1988, Dr. Smith advanced to the position of Dean of USF's College of Fine Arts, becoming USF's first Black academic dean. From 1988 through 1998, Dr. Smith raised \$120 million for three endowed Chairs, including an African Art Chair; increased student and faculty diversity; held weekly lunch and counseling sessions for minority students; and endowed scholarships and programs for students. Also, while serving as Dean, Dr. Smith was the first African American to be elected president of the international Council of Fine Arts Deans and he served as chairman of the Florida Higher Education Arts Network.

In 1999, he became the 12th president of Fisk University in Nashville, Tenn., a top-tier historically Black liberal arts institution. During his tenure as president, Fisk University advanced from 11th to eighth rank in the U.S. News and World Report and the Princeton Review, garnering the university greater national visibility. While in Nashville, Dr. Smith was appointed by the Mayor to the Task Force on Affordable Housing and Community Access Television Committee while also serving in the NAACP.

Dr. Smith is the recipient of many honorable civic, social, and educational honors such as the Tampa/Hillsborough County Human Rights Award and Outstanding Young Men of America. Dr. Smith's other accomplishments include expansion of international exchange and study abroad programs at USF as well as arts outreach programs to the University Area Community, Boys and Girls Clubs and West Tampa Elementary. Dr. Smith is also a member of Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity and Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Tampa Bay community, I am proud to recognize Dr. John L. Smith, Jr., for his lifetime commitment to servant leadership, creative spirit, diversity and inclusion in education, and uplifting our entire community.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF
MR. JOHN DUFFY FROM THE
ELGIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

HON. RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2023

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. Mr. Speaker, today I wish to honor Mr. John Duffy upon his retirement from the Elgin Community College Board of Trustees. Mr. Duffy's distinguished service of over 48 years with the Board makes him the longest serving trustee in the history of Community College District 509.

In 1965, Mr. Duffy began his career as an English and Latin teacher at Larkin High School in Elgin, Illinois. It was only ten years into his role as an educator that his work extended into elected office and his position on the Elgin Community College Board of Trustees began. Throughout his time on the board, he was elected to chair the group seven times—a powerful testament to his colleagues' belief that Mr. Duffy embodies the values that the college seeks to instill in its students. Mr. Duffy has also used his voice to serve community colleges nationally, including by serving on the Boards of Directors for the Association of Community College Trustees and the American Association of Community Colleges.

Mr. Duffy's outstanding leadership earned him honors including the Central Region Trustee Leadership Award and the Illinois Community College Trustee Association's Trustee of the Year Award. Across the academic community and beyond, Mr. Duffy is highly regarded for his dedicated advocacy for all students.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Mr. Duffy's five decades of public service on behalf of students in Elgin and across the Nation, and I congratulate him on his well-deserved retirement.

HONORING FORMER CONGRESS-
MAN EDWARD FORD WEBER

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2023

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following obituary honoring the former Congressman, Edward Ford Weber of Ohio.

EDWARD WEBER OBITUARY

Edward F. Weber, a Toledo area attorney for nearly 50 years and a one-term Republican congressman, who in 1980 swept a long-time incumbent out of office, died Monday in Hospice of Northwest of Ohio, Perrysburg Township. He was 91.

He had congestive heart failure, his son, Ford Weber, said.

Home most recently was southwest Toledo. Mr. Weber and his wife, Alice, formerly lived in the Westmoreland neighborhood of central Toledo.

He returned to practice law in 1983 after his term in Congress, rejoining Marshall & Melhorn as a senior partner. He headed its probate and trust section before his election and led the corporate-commercial section on his return.

In 1990, he formed the law firm of Weber & Sterling with Robert V. Sterling, specializing in wills, trusts, planning, and administration. He retired about 18 years ago.

Mr. Weber on Nov. 4, 1980, achieved what a dozen Republican candidates before him could not: He defeated Thomas Ludlow Ashley, ending the Democrat's 26-year congressional career. In the presidential race, Ronald Reagan defeated Jimmy Carter. Lucas County results showed Mr. Weber had over 10,000 more votes than his party's standard bearer.

"He was proud of the fact that he did not ride on Reagan's coattails," the younger Mr. Weber said.

Two years later, Marcy Kaptur defeated Mr. Weber by a margin nearly identical to that by which he was elected. Ms. Kaptur has been re-elected every two years since.

He took issue, in a Blade Readers' Forum letter, with a report that he had admitted he could have done more to hold the 9th District seat.

"For two years while I served in Congress. I worked as hard as humanly possible to retain my seat short of compromising my principles and voting differently on the issues," Mr. Weber wrote to The Blade. "That loss remains the greatest personal disappointment of my life. However, I do not believe that anything I could have done differently in the 1982 campaign would have changed the outcome of that election."

Mr. Weber's startling defeat of the seemingly invincible Mr. Ashley was the product of a precision campaign plan effectively executed. He began planning more than two years earlier, before Mr. Ashley's November, 1978 victory. He first got the notion to run while working in his yard. He was then a volunteer for Mr. Ashley's Republican opponent.

"I felt that the country very badly needed a big change in its direction—away from overregulation, away from overtaxation, away from unemployment, and away from the inflationary trends," Mr. Weber told The Blade after his 1980 victory.

The younger Mr. Weber said: "His parents instilled in him a sense of community and civic duty."

The years since, he "developed a lot of respect for Marcy Kaptur," the younger Mr. Weber said. The former congressman and his wife contributed to Ms. Kaptur's campaigns on several occasions.

"He served with honor," Ms. Kaptur said Wednesday. "Ed and Alice Weber had a beautiful marriage and were committed to family, to faith, to community, and country. It was a lifetime of achievement, not just for themselves, but for our community. He was a gentleman."

As Mr. Weber returned to the practice of law, he retained his interest in the public good. He was co-chairman of a successful capital improvement levy campaign for the Toledo Zoo. He served as co-chairman of a campaign to find private funding for a museum ship on the Maumee River, what is now the S.S. Col. James M. Schoonmaker.

He tutored children in reading at a central Toledo school. He wrote the occasional letter to The Blade Readers' Forum. By the early 2010s, he no longer considered himself a Republican, having voted for Barack Obama twice, but also said he was not a Democrat.

He and his wife joined community members in arguing for Maumee River views and green space as they publicly spoke out against ProMedica's six-story parking garage in Promenade Park. In 2015, Mr. Weber endorsed the mayoral candidacy of another vocal opponent to the garage, Mike Ferrler, a former member of Toledo City Council who was defeated in a close contest for mayor in 1993.

Edward Ford Weber was born July 26, 1931, to Elenore and Ford R. Weber and grew up on Scottwood Avenue in the Old West End. He was a 1949 graduate of Scott High School,

where he played football. He received a bachelor's degree from Denison University, where he majored in mathematics and music.

He was a 1956 graduate of Harvard law school and afterward served in the Army at Fort Belvoir, Va., assigned to the judge advocate as an attorney in the legal assistance office. He began his legal career at the firm then known as Marshall, Melhorn, Bloch & Belt.

When Craig Frederickson was hired by the firm in 1975, Mr. Weber became his mentor and managing partner.

"I was so lucky," Mr. Frederickson said. "I have to say he was probably one of the most remarkable individuals I've ever known—his integrity, his ethics, his brilliance, and his ability to handle and teach a young attorney with patience. It was so impressive. His dealing with clients—he was honest and truthful. He actually cared."

George Glasser, a retired judge of the Ohio 6th District Court of Appeals, said: "He was an individual who had the courage of his convictions and stood for integrity and everything good."

From 1967–79, Mr. Weber taught trusts and estates at the University of Toledo law school.

He was a life member of what is now Ashland Church, from its historic home in central Toledo through its relocation more than 15 years ago to Oregon. He had been a trustee of the YMCA of Greater Toledo; the Toledo Museum of Art; the Red Cross in Toledo; the Clement O. Miniger Memorial Foundation; the Landman-Goldman Foundation, and the University of Chicago Divinity School.

He was a former district Boy Scouts chairman and was a scoutmaster for 13 years of a central Toledo troop.

Music was a favorite avocation. When he entered Denison, he took the advice of his mother—who oversaw many entertainment programs at their church—and enrolled in a course in harmony, along with prelaw studies.

After law school, he sang in the church choir and composed prayer responses and organ music. Mr. Weber in 1977, directed a performance of a musical he composed, "One Solitary Life," based on the life of Jesus. He dedicated the work to his mother. He also composed the processional march for his daughter Mary's wedding.

He played clarinet in the Maumee Community Band and played piano and trombone.

He also enjoyed hiking and backpacking out west and sailing the Great Lakes.

Surviving are his wife, the former Alice Hammerstrom, whom he married March 30, 1957; daughters Elenore Weber and Mary Due; son, Ford Weber; six grandchildren, and a great-granddaughter.

Family and friends will be greeted from noon–7 p.m. March 24 at Walker Funeral Home, Sylvania Township. Services will be private.

The family suggests tributes to the Toledo Museum of Art or the Toledo Public Schools Foundation.

Published by The Blade on Mar. 2, 2023.

RECOGNIZING TAMPA BAY'S LOCAL TRAILBLAZER, CELESTE GIBBONS-PEOPLES, IN HONOR OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2023

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Celeste Gibbons-Peoples

for her nearly four decades of public service to the Tampa Bay community. Her influence in our community follows a tradition of excellence pioneered by her late father. Walter Lee "Dirk" Gibbons, who was a well-known Negro League Baseball player locally and nationally. She has committed her life to telling the stories of Black pioneers and celebrating the rich Black history of the Tampa area.

Born in the basement of a clinic in Ybor City and raised in East Tampa, Ms. Gibbons-Peoples attended Hillsborough High School and Hillsborough Community College where she started to foster her appreciation for Black history and its importance in life-long education. Her passion for this cause led her to become an active member of the City of Tampa's Black History Committee, Inc. for more than 30 years and served as its president 2014 through 2022. The Committee has awarded more than \$250,000 to high school seniors to further their education through college, university or vocational school.

Ms. Gibbons-Peoples came to City of Tampa government in 1985 and is currently its certified senior procurement analyst. Her hard work has not gone unnoticed by her colleagues and peers—in 2017, she was named Buyer of the Year by the National Institute of Government Purchasing for Tampa Bay.

Ms. Gibbons-Peoples continues to be a role model in our community. In 2010, she obtained her Certified Professional Public Buyer's (CPPB) certification and is also a Florida Certified Contract Manager (FCCM). Her love for her profession drives her position as president of the National Institute of Governmental Purchasing. Through this organization, she helps provide educational opportunities for current and striving Purchasing Procurement professionals.

Volunteer work also plays an integral part in Ms. Gibbons-Peoples's impact on the Tampa Bay community. Her contributions include United Way Suncoast, Great American Teach-In, Hillsborough County and the City of Tampa Martin Luther King, Jr. Committee, Inc., Ladies Auxiliary for the Woods and Wanton Tampa Chapter for Buffalo Soldiers, and the Community Charter Schools of Excellence. As a coach for the Boys and Girls Club and Police Athletic League, Ms. Gibbons-Peoples has helped children realize their true potential. In addition, she serves as president of the Usher Ministry No. 2 at Springhill Missionary Baptist Church.

Mr. Speaker. I rise today in admiration and respect for Ms. Celeste Gibbons-Peoples who is the embodiment of altruism and forms an integral part of Tampa's own Black history.

HONORING ERICA BRADLEY

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2023

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a hardworking and impactful leader, Ms. Erica Bradley. Ms. Bradley has shown what can be done through hard work, dedication, and a desire to achieve success.

Ms. Erica Bradley has been named Jefferson County School District's 2022–2023 Teacher of the Year. She is a second-year

English Language Arts teacher. She plans, develops, and compiles comprehensive language-based skills for all students while delivering quality instruction to impact their overall developmental success. She is also a member of the School Leadership Team, the School Improvement Committee, the PBIS Committee, the Chair of the ELA Department, and the Upper Elementary Reading Club.

Ms. Bradley is a native of Jefferson County and graduated from Jefferson County High School with the class of 2009. She is the mother of a son, Omarian, who is currently an 8th grade student.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Erica Bradley for her passion and dedication to education in the Jefferson County School District.

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO MODIFY THE REQUIREMENT TO REMAIN OUTSIDE OF THE UNITED STATES FOR COMMON-WEALTH ONLY TRANSITIONAL WORKERS

HON. GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLAN

OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2023

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, three years of pandemic have taken a toll on businesses nationwide and, especially, in isolated, one-industry economies like that of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Policies that made sense before a pandemic shut down the tourism industry in the islands I represent are now actually making recovery more difficult.

So, today, I am introducing legislation to ease the return to normalcy by recognizing the impact of the pandemic.

My bill will delay for three years the effective date of a provision of the Northern Mariana Islands U.S. Workforce Act, Public Law 115–218, that is making it more expensive and more difficult for businesses in my district to recover.

This is the so-called “touchback” provision of that law that requires employers to send certain foreign workers back to their home country at least every three years. Doing so has, of course, proven problematic during the pandemic, when flights were interrupted and increasingly costly. In some cases, home country ingress provisions made it difficult for workers to return.

In the meantime, the purpose of the touchback requirement has been fulfilled. It was intended to reduce reliance on foreign workers and encourage investment in U.S. workers. And that is precisely what has occurred, even without implementation of touchback.

During the pandemic the number of U.S. workers employed in the Marianas has held steady near 13,000, according to the most recent report from the Governor required by the U.S. Workforce Act. The number of foreign workers, according to the Governor, has fallen from about 8,000 to 6,000.

Even without the requirement that certain foreign workers return home at least every three years, Marianas businesses appear to have shifted to a relatively greater reliance on U.S. workers. This is precisely the intent of Public Law 115–218.

Rather than striking the requirement from the law altogether, however—as considering this shift touchback may now seem unnecessary—my bill takes a more conservative approach to delay the effective date for three years, matching the duration of the pandemic.

The bill also makes clear the intent of the law’s authors—Chair Rob Bishop and Ranking Member RAÚL GRIJALVA of the House Natural Resources Committee, Chair LISA MURKOWSKI of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, and me—with respect to the timing of touchback, as explained in our letter of July 22, 2020, to Samantha Deshommes, Chief of the Regulatory Coordination Division of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

Ultimately, I respect the bipartisan agreement on a reasonable immigration policy unique to the Marianas that is embodied in the Northern Mariana Islands U.S. Workforce Act. Circumstances now warrant fine-tuning the touchback provision. Ultimately, however, I want to see that bipartisan policy through to its conclusion in 2030.

HONORING A.W. HOLT

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2023

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable individual, A.W. Holt.

A graduate from Brinkly High School in Jackson, MS, where he participated in basketball, baseball, and track. A.W., who was also known as the “Awesome Wonder”, attended Jackson State University (JSU) and graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Education.

Holt played for the JSU Basketball Tigers and enjoyed a winning season each year while he was there. During his freshman year, his team won the Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC) Tournament. The following season the Tigers won the Georgia Invitational Tournament, and he was selected as one of the tournament’s Most Valuable Players. That year the team also won the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) Championship. In 1968, Holt was selected to the ALL-SWAC 1st Team.

During his junior and senior years, Holt served as Captain of the JSU basketball team, and was pitcher for the JSU baseball team in 1968. The team won a SWAC Championship. In 1969, he received All-American Honorable Mention and appeared in the 1969 edition of Outstanding College Athletes of America.

His success did not stop at the collegiate level. In May 1969, the Dallas Chaparrals drafted Holt in the 3rd round of the American Basketball Association (ABA). He also played for the Chicago Bulls in the National Basketball Association (NBA). During his career, he played for the Scranton Minors, the Northwest Travelers, and the New Orleans Jazz.

Upon his return to Jackson, MS, Holt was employed at JSU as Assistance Director and then Director of the New Men’s Dormitory. He participated in the Jackson City Basketball and Baseball Leagues as a player and an umpire.

In 2004, he retired from the Hinds County Sheriff’s Department after 30 years of service.

While there, he was named one of the three 1st Black sergeants and later 1st Black lieutenant at the Hinds County Sheriff’s Department.

Holt and his wife Margaret have 2 sons, Christopher and Alvin. Alvin is deceased.

A.W. Holt was inducted in the Jackson State University Sports Hall of Fame in 2004.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing A.W. Holt for his dedication and tenacity to serving his community and desire to be an example for all.

RECOGNIZING TAMPA BAY’S LOCAL TRAILBLAZER, FRED HEARNS, IN HONOR OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2023

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a true Tampa Bay historian who has served this community with great distinction for many decades. Mr. Charles “Fred” Hearn is one of the foremost historians of Tampa Bay and Florida history. And, since 2021, he has served as the first Curator of Black History for the Tampa Bay History Center (TBHC).

Mr. Hearn was born in the Bronx, NY and grew up in East Tampa, Florida, graduating in 1966 from Middleton High School, the first high school for African Americans in Hillsborough County. He later went on to further his education at the University of South Florida earning a bachelor’s degree in English/journalism and a master’s degree in African studies. Mr. Hearn also holds a master’s degree in human services from Springfield College (Distinguished Graduate Award). He is the father of four adult children, sons Charles F. (Ricky) Hearn Jr. and Marcel Charles Fred Hearn, and daughters Cassanda Franklin and Charaneka Johnson. He also has five grandchildren.

He began his career as a journalist working for the Florida Sentinel Bulletin, St. Petersburg Times, Tampa Tribune, Ft. Lauderdale Sun Sentinel and then in the Office of Public Contacts for Southern University in Baton Rouge, La. In 1975, Mr. Hearn began a 32-year career with the City of Tampa and became its human rights director in 1992. He retired as director of the Department of Community Affairs in 2007.

During his tenure with the City of Tampa, Mr. Hearn worked on several major projects including leading the charge as president of the Middleton High School Alumni Association to reestablish his alma mater where a Pavilion now stands in his honor. He also worked as a consultant for the revitalization of the Perry Harvey, Sr. Park project and was a founding member of several civic organizations in the city such as the 78th Street Improvement Association, the Ada T. Payne Friends of the Urban Libraries and the Robert W. Saunders Library Foundation, Inc. Mr. Hearn also worked as a consultant for the ENCORE housing project in Tampa. He served on the Friends of the Riverwalk and on the Florida Advisory Committee of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. In 2014, he was awarded the Robert Saunders Award for Community Service.

Mr. Hearn continues to lift the Tampa Bay community through his church, Allen Temple AME, and his fraternity, the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. where he was initiated into the Pi Iota Chapter in 1977. Mr. Hearn served in numerous roles for the fraternity including as chair of the Just Gents program, which mentors young African American male students from Ernest Everett Just Elementary School.

Mr. Hearn has a deep love for this community and is constantly fighting to ensure everyone understands that Black History is everyone's history. Sparked by his mentorship with Robert Saunders and the publication of Mr. Saunders' book, *Bridging the Gap*, Mr. Hearn started to have a deep interest in local history. In 2005, he started his own tourism business, Fred Hearn Tours, LLC, which included both bus and walking tours of Tampa's African American history. The next year, he wrote an autobiographical book titled, *Getting it Done: Rebuilding Black America Brick By Brick*. Mr. Hearn is the president emeritus of the Tampa Bay Chapter of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH).

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of a grateful Tampa Bay community, during this Black History Month, we salute and honor Mr. Charles "Fred" Hearn for ensuring that history is written truthfully, fully and with a persistent shining a light on the struggles, contributions and success stories of our local unsung Black neighbors.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF SHONDA RENNAE MAGNESS

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2023

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Shonda Rennae Magness of Telephone, Texas. Mrs. Magness was born on January 18, 1965. She graduated from Crane High School in 1983 and was a star basketball player at Odessa College. While at Odessa, she met her first husband, Tommy Stahl, and was married for 25 years. Together, they raised two beautiful daughters, Lauren Bennett and Lindsey Stahl.

For over 27 years, Mrs. Magness worked at law firm specializing in local government, where she made loyal friends all over the state and brought smiles to all who knew her. She became the County Purchasing Agent for Fannin County and was highly successful in government procurement. Mrs. Magness remarried, and wed the next great love of her life, Jerry Magness, on June 10, 2017. Since then, they have lived on their ranch in Telephone, Texas.

She was proud of being a "rancher's wife" and even learned how to work cattle herself. In her free time, she loved to coach and play volleyball. She was also an active member of the Kiwanis Club of Bonham, Texas. Mrs. Magness was a woman of faith whose cheer would bring joy to the lives of everyone she interacted with. She was affectionately referred to as "Nana" by her grandchildren.

I have requested the United States flag be flown over our Nation's Capitol to recognize Mrs. Magness' amazing life and work. She will be dearly missed by her friends, family, and all who knew her.

COST ESTIMATE FOR H.J. RES. 27—
PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL
DISAPPROVAL UNDER CHAPTER
8 OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES
CODE, OF THE RULE SUBMITTED
BY THE DEPARTMENT OF THE
ARMY, CORPS OF ENGINEERS,
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AND
THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
AGENCY RELATING TO
"REVISED DEFINITION OF
'WATERS OF THE UNITED
STATES'"

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2023

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the cost estimate prepared by the Congressional Budget Office for H.J. Res. 27—Providing for Congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers, Department of Defense and the Environmental Protection Agency relating to "Revised Definition of 'Waters of the United States.'" The cost estimate was not available at the time of the Committee Report filing.

H.J. RES. 27, PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL UNDER CHAPTER 8 OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, OF THE RULE SUBMITTED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY, CORPS OF ENGINEERS, DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AND THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY RELATING TO "REVISED DEFINITION OF 'WATERS OF THE UNITED STATES'" AS REPORTED BY THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE ON MARCH 3, 2023

	By fiscal year, millions of dollars—		
	2023	2023–2028	2023–2033
Direct Spending (Outlays) ..	*	*	*
Revenues	0	0	0
Increase or Decrease (–) in the Deficit	*	*	*
Spending Subject to Appropriation (Outlays)	*	*	*

* = between –\$500,000 and \$500,000.

Increases net direct spending in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2034? \$2.5 billion.

Increases on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2034? \$5 billion.

Statutory pay-as-you-go procedures apply? Yes.

Mandate Effects:

Contains intergovernmental mandate? Yes, Under Threshold.

Contains private-sector mandate? Yes, Under Threshold.

H.J. Res. 27 would prevent the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Army Corps of Engineers from implementing or enforcing certain regulations related to the nation's waters and wetlands under the Clean Water Act (CWA).

The CWA directs EPA and the Corps to serve as co-regulators, along with the states, of the nation's waters. H.J. Res. 27 would prevent those agencies from implementing a final rule, "Revised Definition of 'Waters of the United States.'" as published in the Federal Register on January 18, 2023. The rule, which will take effect on March 20, 2023, defines the scope of waters protected by the CWA.

Under current law, the Corps collects fees to issue permits under the CWA in amounts that, on average, total less than \$50,000 annually. Those fees are recorded in the budget as offsets to direct spending.

CBO expects that implementing the joint resolution could affect permitting requirements for some projects and thus the number of permit applications, but we do not have enough information to determine whether the number of applications would increase or decrease. CBO estimates that any increase or decrease in direct spending under the joint resolution would be insignificant because the fees the Corps collects are nominal.

If the 2023 rule were reversed, the regulations that were previously in place would once again become effective. The administrative burden on EPA and the Corps to reverse the regulations would be minimal, so CBO estimates that administrative costs would be insignificant; any spending would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

Implementing H.J. Res. 27 would impose mandates on intergovernmental and private-sector entities as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) because some property owners would encounter regulatory requirements that they would not otherwise face when the final rule is in effect. Some property owners would face fewer regulatory requirements under the resolution. The cost of the mandate would be any fees and expenses incurred to comply with the regulatory requirements under the CWA.

The number of property owners affected would depend on how EPA and the Corps implement the joint resolution. Even if the total number of applications, on net, decrease or remain unchanged, CBO expects that implementing the joint resolution would require a limited number of property owners to apply for additional permits. Using information from the Corps, CBO estimates the cost of the mandates would not exceed the thresholds established in UMRA for intergovernmental and private-sector mandates (\$99 million and \$198 million in 2023, respectively, adjusted annually for inflation).

The CBO staff contacts for this estimate are Aurora Swanson (for federal costs) and Brandon Lever (for mandates). The estimate was reviewed by H. Samuel Papenfuss, Deputy Director of Budget Analysis.

HONORING WENDY KNIGHT

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2023

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a tenacious and self-motivated leader, Wendy Knight. Wendy Knight has shown what can be done through hard work, dedication, and a desire to achieve success.

Originally from Chicago, IL, Ms. Knight began her career as a teller coordinator with Bank of America. Throughout her 8 years there, she held a variety of roles with increasing responsibility, including personal banker, client service specialist, lead operations representative and teller supervisor.

Since moving to the Vicksburg area in 2013, Ms. Knight has been a financial relationship senior consultant with Regions Bank—focusing on proactively meeting the banking and financial service needs of her clients. In January 2023, Wendy was named Branch Manager of Mutual Credit Union at the Clay Street location.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Wendy Knight for her passion and dedication to provide good customer service to the Warren County community.

RECOGNIZING MR. MINORU
HAMADA'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. BLAKE D. MOORE

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2023

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I am grateful for the opportunity to honor the abundant and exceptional life of Mr. Minoru Hamada as he celebrates his 100th birthday. Born in Ogden to Japanese immigrants, Mr. Hamada embodies the best our country has to offer and has made Utah proud.

When much of the nation turned a suspicious eye toward their Japanese American neighbors following the Japanese Empire's attack on Pearl Harbor, Mr. Hamada saw an opportunity to demonstrate his allegiance to the United States. He volunteered for the military, joining with other Japanese Americans to serve as members of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team. Many of his fellow soldiers in the 442nd were incarcerated in internment camps created to house Japanese Americans in accordance with President Roosevelt's executive order.

Mr. Hamada and his fellow Japanese American soldiers saw the war as a chance to fight totalitarianism abroad and racial prejudice at home. The 442nd remains the most-decorated unit in U.S. military history for its size and length of service. As a member of the American forces fighting German and Italian fascists for control of the Italian peninsula, Mr. Hamada was wounded in battle. He served in uniform for another two years.

After the war, he married his sweetheart, Martha. They were married for 61 years until she passed in 2007. They delighted in raising two kids and now have two grandchildren and four great grandchildren. Mr. Hamada continued his service to Utah's defense community, making dental prosthetics at Hill Air Force Base and for a local dentist in Layton.

It is through the service and sacrifice of individuals like Mr. Hamada that allow all Americans to live in freedom. His life is a model of courage, selfless-service and altruism that we can all learn from.

I thank Mr. Hamada on behalf of his fellow Utahns and a grateful nation for his service and wish him a very happy 100th birthday.

REINTRODUCTION OF THE
BERRYESSA SNOW MOUNTAIN
NATIONAL MONUMENT EXPAN-
SION ACT

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2023

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, today I reintroduce the "Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument Expansion Act" with U.S. Senator ALEX PADILLA (D-CA). I thank Congressman MIKE THOMPSON (D-CA04) and U.S. Senator DIANNE FEINSTEIN (D-CA) for their support as original cosponsors.

Our bicameral legislation would expand the National Monument to include 3,925 acres of adjacent federal land in Lake County, California known as the "Walker Ridge" tract. Second, it would provide new opportunities for federally recognized tribes to enter into co-management agreements for the National Monument with the federal Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Third, it would rename Walker Ridge to "Molok Luyuk," meaning Condor Ridge in the Patwin language of the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation and other Native American peoples indigenous to the area. Lastly, it would direct the BLM and the U.S. Forest Service to complete the management plan for the National Monument, which has remained unfinished since 2015.

President Obama issued Presidential Proclamation 9298 in July 2015, establishing the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument. This set the boundary as encompassing federal land surrounding the Lake Berryessa reservoir but omitted the Walker Ridge tract. My legislation (H.R.761/S.393) in the 114th Congress with then-U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer (D-CA) and Congressman THOMPSON to establish the National Monument would have included the Walker Ridge tract within the boundary.

On October 17, 2022, I and other members of California's Congressional delegation called on President Biden to use his authority under the Antiquities Act of 1906 to expand the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument. We also called on Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland to order the U.S. Board on Geographic Names to officially rename Walker Ridge. I hope that the Biden Administration will act on our request, which is supported by the Lake County Board of Supervisors and Tribal Council for the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation.

Conserving California's special places has been a lifelong passion throughout my tenure in the state legislature, as Deputy Secretary of the Interior during the Clinton Administration, and now as a Member of Congress. Walker Ridge, soon to be known as Molok Luyuk, is one of those special places. It was an honor to represent Lake County as the U.S. Representative for California's Third Congressional District from 2013 to 2023. I look forward to finishing the job for my former constituents in Lake County by expanding the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument for future generations to enjoy.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage all Members of the California delegation to join me in cosponsoring the "Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument Expansion Act." We must conserve this unique landscape and honor the Native American peoples who walked this land long before our country was founded.

HONORING ADRIAN MILES
FORREST

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2023

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable servant, Adrian Miles Forrest.

Adrian Miles Forrest was born on July 17, 1992, to parents George Sr. and Stephanie

Forrest and reared in Grenada, Mississippi. Mr. Forrest attended and graduated from Grenada High School and furthered his studies at Holmes Community College in Goodman, MS. Mr. Forrest then furthered his career by attending Mississippi Valley State majoring in Music Education, where he accumulated more knowledge in arranging and recording.

With a God given gift and talent, throughout his years being exposed to Gospel Quartet background, Mr. Forrest is known for his collaborations with many others with his bass guitar and guitar riffs in hip hop, gospel, southern soul, rhythm and blues, and traditional blues. Mr. Forrest is also known in the blues society as the bassist for the late McKinley Morganfield, better known as "Muddy Waters", great nephew Keith Johnson, which is also known as the Keith Johnson and The Big Muddy Band.

On February 5, 2023, Mr. Forrest made black history. He is the first black male in Grenada, MS, to receive his first Grammys Award. He and his team won the Best Roots Gospel Album, which is called The Urban Hymnal featured by Tymble and the Aristocrat of Bands, better known as Tennessee State Marching Band.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Adrian Miles Forrest for his dedication and tenacity to serving his community and desire to be an example for all.

RECOGNIZING MARY JANE
MURPHY'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2023

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding constituent from my district, Mary Jane Murphy. Mary Jane was born on March 20, 1923. As we celebrate her 100 years of life, we think of all the memories and stories that she has and continues to share as a citizen of this great county. Mary Jane was born and raised in Somerton, Pennsylvania and has spent her life in the Philadelphia, Pennsylvania area. Mary Jane obtained her bachelor's degree in education from Temple University in 1944. She spent many years as an educator first as a teacher in Northeast Philadelphia and then as a fourth-grade teacher for 25 years in the Neshaminy School District. She is a mother and was the devoted wife of 67 years to her husband, Harry Evans Murphy, Owner of the W&HF Evans Greenhouse which was family operated for 110 years. Mary Jane raised 5 children and is the grandmother to 9 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren. We are incredibly grateful for the positive impact Mary Jane has had throughout her life, and we wish Mary Jane countless blessings.

RECOGNIZING PLANTER'S HARD-
WARE AND BUILDING INC. FOR
OVER A CENTURY IN BUSINESS

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2023

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Runyan family,

who has been operating Planter's Hardware & Building Inc. for over a century.

A member of the Runyan family has been operating Planter's Hardware & Building Inc. on the square in downtown Ashland, Alabama since approximately 1916. The business got its name from its original clientele, and originally catered to the needs of local farmers. Planter's Hardware has altered its inventory to reflect changing times in favor of supplies for timber, poultry, and cabinet making. Planter's Hardware offers customers cost-effective solutions and personalized service 6 days a week.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing the hard work of the Runyan family for their work in operating Planter's Hardware for over a century.

HONORING APRIL F. CHRISTON

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2023

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a hardworking and dedicated public service worker, April F. Christon.

April Christon was born April Spencer on April 1, 1985, in Marks, MS, to Joyce Tennin Spencer and the late James Jones. She grew up on a home with her mother and 2 of her siblings in Lambert, MS. April attended school in the Quitman County School District and graduated with honors from Madison S. Palmer High School in 2003. While in high school, April gave birth to 2 daughters. Despite being a young, teenage mother, April had hopes and dreams of a better life and was determined to continue her education. With the support and assistance from her mother, extended family members, and friends, April went on to pursue postsecondary education at Mississippi State University in Starkville, MS. In 2008, April graduated from MSU with a Bachelor of Science degree in Educational Psychology with an emphasis in Art. In 2009, April married her husband, Marcus Christon. They share 3 children together and settled in Batesville, MS.

April went on to start her career in the public service field by counseling individuals with severe mental health, behavior, family, and alcohol and drug issues. While gaining work experience and becoming more knowledgeable in her field, April decided to go back to school and pursue more education. She received her Master of Science in Continuing Education in Counseling and Psychology from the University of West Alabama in 2012. She also received a post graduate certificate in Rehabilitation Counseling from the University of North Texas in 2018. April currently works for the Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services (MDRS) in the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, heading the Supported Employment division. April serves the state of MS by assisting Mississippians with most significant disabilities with services to obtain and maintain competitive integrated employment. She is a member of the National Rehabilitation Association (NRA) and the Rehabilitation Association of MS (RAM). She also assists with the Project SEARCH program within MDRS, which recently was awarded the 100% Outcome Award for her work with Merit Health River Region Hospital in Vicksburg, MS, and the Ex-

cellent Outcome Award for her work with MS Baptist Medical Center in Jackson, MS.

Not only does April serve her community and state in public service through her professional work, but she also serves her community through volunteering her time in various organizations and programs in Panola County. April, along with two others, founded a non-profit organization, Pure Justice, Inc., that is focused on the positive development of youth and their artistic talents. This organization was developed to provide social and educational activities for children and youth in Batesville, MS, Panola County, and surrounding areas. Within the organization, Pure Justice dance team was formed and has been a productive part of the community, promoting physical fitness and wellness, and traveling and participating in dance recitals and competitions. April is an active member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. and diligently serves in her local chapter by helping implement programs to benefit the local community. She also serves on the administrative team of Connor Disaster Relief organization, which is a disaster relief organization that helps people in Panola County and the surrounding counties with disaster relief aid. April loves the act of service—for God, her family, her community, and for the people that seek assistance.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing April F. Christon for her dedication to serving this great State and country.

RECOGNIZING CORYDON CENTRAL PANTHERS GIRLS' BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. ERIN HOUCHIN

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2023

Mrs. HOUCHIN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize the Corydon Central Panthers Girls' basketball team and congratulate them on a great 2022–2023 season.

Making the Indiana High School Athletic Association's State Championship game is no easy task. Every member of the Panthers team should be proud of the season they put together. The team had a tremendous performance throughout their season and into the playoffs, especially senior Ava Weber who is the program's all-time leading scorer. Corydon Centrals' program is well positioned to continue to compete for future championships. I congratulate them. They have made their hometown proud.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NEW YORK CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT (NYPD) 19TH PRECINCT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2023

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 50th anniversary of the NYPD 19th Precinct Community Council. Precinct Community Councils have existed in various forms in New York since the 1940's and pro-

vide the community with a direct line of communication to their local NYPD precinct. Council members regularly meet with the precinct Commanding Officer and Community Affairs Officers to discuss public safety issues, provide feedback and input regarding local policing services, and organize events like street fairs and beautification programs for the neighborhood.

Since 1973, the NYPD 19th Precinct Community Council has brought together residents who volunteer their time and resources to ensure that the Upper East Side is a safe and thriving neighborhood. In addition to hosting an annual street fair that raises funds to assist with the needs of the precinct and sponsoring a National Night Out Against Crime event every summer, the Council constantly seeks to provide new opportunities for the public to interface with their local police officers and promote crime prevention awareness. The Council has also sponsored and recruited volunteers for NYPD initiatives including the Court Monitoring and Block Watchers programs.

I applaud the NYPD 19th Precinct Community Council and its volunteers for their commitment to public safety and the quality of life of their neighbors. I am proud to honor the Council's contributions to the Upper East Side over the past fifty years and recognize it as a successful model for police-community partnerships across the city. The legacy of the Council's work will be felt for generations and I wish for its continued success in the years to come.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DR. ROBERT COPE

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2023

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, we shall never forget Cope. Idaho recently lost a great man with the passing of Dr. Robert Cope. Cope, as he was known, was a cattle veterinarian in Salmon, Idaho, for 44 years. In addition to his work as a vet, Cope was a public servant, serving on the Lemhi County Commission and many advisory committees and task forces focusing on natural resource issues throughout Idaho and the western United States.

Cope helped so many in the Salmon area, and the community loved him. He was genuine and good natured. What you saw was who he was, and you could expect the facts without sugar coating. Cope spent his days researching bovine diseases, educating ranchers on how to keep their herds healthy, and of course doing the hands-on work. On cold nights he could be found in a neighbor's barn helping with a new calf. He was there for everyone who needed him whether they were a rancher with a large operation or a kid in the 4-H program.

Cope was an expert on subjects such as wolf depredation and grazing, with a noted ability to find common ground between different groups. It should be known he had a great impact here in Washington on federal lands policy. My staff and I had numerous meetings with Cope when he travelled to D.C., where he made an indelible mark on all of us. His rural common sense was a breath of fresh

air on Capitol Hill and when he spoke, people listened.

Cope will be greatly missed and never forgotten. My thoughts are with his wife Terrie as well as the people of Lemhi County.

HONORING BROWNSVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2023

Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor four courageous police officers, who risked their lives providing aid to two people who escaped a burning car and rescuing another two people from the car on January 28, 2023, in Brownsville, Texas.

Brownsville, Texas is home to over 187,000 residents who are served by the Brownsville Police Department. Their unwavering commitment to the protection of our communities was put on nationwide display when Brownsville was named the 16th safest city in the United States. Their work was more recently recognized due to the lifesaving cooperation between the Brownsville PD and other emergency services personnel on January 28.

At the 2:00 a.m. hour of January 28, first responders were called to the scene of a single-vehicle crash. When the officers arrived, they discovered the vehicle had been flipped over. While 2 men had managed to escape with noticeable injuries, there was a time-sensitive emergency still happening in the vehicle. The officers were notified of 2 others still trapped in the burning vehicle and they quickly reacted to save their lives. Body cam footage showed the dramatic situation as police officers pulled these 2 men to safety, who were actively being burned inside the vehicle, which was still engulfed in flames.

With amazing assistance from the Brownsville Fire Department, Patrol Officer Erik Balboa, Officer Erick Amaro, Officer Federico Jaramillo, and Officer Gilberto Hernandez were able to breach the burning vehicle's doors and save the people in the car.

Our first responders are often unsung heroes, but today we get the amazing opportunity to praise and thank the Brownsville Police Department for their heroic work and for their constant commitment to the safety and security of South Texas.

Mr. Speaker, Officers Balboa, Amaro, Jaramillo, and Hernandez, the Brownsville Police Department, and all first responders who dedicate their lives to our amazing communities, and thank them. I have no doubt that these heroes will continue to go above and beyond to provide lifesaving support to those in need, and I am forever thankful for their service to our community.

HONORING THE LIFE AND CAREER OF WILLIAM LOUSHINE

HON. PETE STAUBER

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2023

Mr. STAUBER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of William "Bill" Loushine, who

died February 26 in Chisholm at the age of 102. Bill graduated from Chisholm High School in 1939 and received his BS degree in 1943 from the University of Wisconsin, LaCrosse. During WWII, Bill served as a first lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps in the South Pacific and as company commander of the Chisholm Army National Guard Unit, where he was recalled to active duty during the Korean War with the 47th Infantry Division of the Minnesota Army National Guard. Upon his return from Korea in 1953, he continued to serve in the National Guard for 25 years, retiring with the rank of lieutenant colonel.

Bill was a teacher and a coach in Chisholm for 36 years. He coached swimming, baseball, and curling. He was the coach of Chisholm's 1948 state championship winning baseball team, and the 1963 state championship curling team. Bill started a junior bonspiel in Chisholm in 1963 and continued to run it for 20 years until 1983. While in his 80s, Bill wrote a 32-page history of the Chisholm Curling Club from 1960 to 2010. This book has allowed Chisholm's flourished curling history to live on. Bill continued to curl well into his 90s.

Bill was devout in his faith. He served on the liturgy and pastoral councils in the St. Joseph's Parish, and as a commentator, lector, and Eucharistic minister, as well. Bill served for many years in the Charter and Planning Commission and as Citizens Committee Director in the Department of Military Affairs. All these accolades serve as a testament to Bill's commitment to community engagement and the Iron Range. I had the pleasure of meeting Bill when I presented him with a flag that was flown over the Capitol in honor of his 100th birthday 2 years ago. His service to his country and his community made our Nation and our State a better place to live. I thank Bill. The Iron Range has truly lost a giant. Rest in peace.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FEDERAL RETIREMENT THRIFT INVESTMENT BOARD INSPECTOR GENERAL ACT OF 2023

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2023

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board Inspector General Act of 2023, which would create an independent Inspector General (IG) for the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board (FRTIB). The FRTIB administers the Thrift Savings Plan (TSP), the retirement savings and investment plan for federal employees.

On June 1, 2022, the FRTIB launched a new system with the goal of modernizing TSP's recordkeeping, improving customer service and bolstering cybersecurity. There have been widespread problems with the new system, including account access, account balances, missing or incomplete information in accounts and hours-long wait times to reach customer service. While many problems have been fixed, problems remain.

As of December 2022, TSP had approximately 6.8 million participants and \$765,154,000,000 in assets, making it the world's largest defined contribution plan. Fed-

eral employees dedicate their careers to serving our country, and they deserve a retirement savings and investment plan that provides top-tier customer support and security.

While the Employee Benefits Security Administration has oversight responsibility for TSP, as it does for private sector 401(k) plans, there is currently no IG for the FRTIB. The problems with the new TSP system are evidence enough that the FRTIB needs an independent IG.

I urge my colleagues to support this important bill.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE AND LIFE ACHIEVEMENTS OF PHILIP INNES ESCHBACH, JR., "THE COLONEL"

HON. BILL POSEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2023

Mr. POSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a true southern gentleman and patriot of great distinction, Mr. Philip Innes Eschbach, Jr., affectionately known as "The Colonel".

During World War II, Mr. Eschbach was stationed in Dijon, France, where, despite the odds of survival, he piloted a B-26 Martin Marauder on 56 bomber flights against the Axis in Italy and France.

During the war he received the French Croix de Guerre. More recently, on May 4, 2013, he was further personally honored by the French government for his heroic deeds in the liberation of their country when they made him an honorary commandant. His daughter, Mary, coordinated his itinerary, and his son, Phil, accompanied him on his trip back to France for the festivities.

After the war, Mr. Eschbach earned his bachelor's and master's degrees at the University of Florida. He became active in community affairs and began teaching school. Katie, I, and many others were fortunate enough to have him as an English teacher before he went on to teach in high school and college.

He never shared any of his war experiences with his students, and they were unknown to me, until he wrote his memoirs in 2004 in a book titled, THE KICKING MULES.

I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing this hero, dedicated teacher, friend, and role model to so many, congratulations for completing another mission—his upcoming 100th orbit around the Sun.

Happy Birthday to the Colonel.

TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF SEN. MITCH MCCONNELL

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2023

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my Kentucky colleague in the Senate Chamber, Republican Leader MITCH MCCONNELL who recently became the longest-serving party leader in American history. On January 3, 2023, Senator MCCONNELL surpassed the record held by

Democratic Sen. Mike Mansfield of Montana. Since 2006, Senator McCONNELL has won the respect and trust of his colleagues who have rightly given him their vote of confidence nine consecutive times to lead the Republican conference.

Senator McCONNELL started breaking records early in his career. When he was first elected to the U.S. Senate in 1984, it was the first time that a Republican had won a statewide race in sixteen years. In fact, his election gave Republicans a newfound confidence Kentucky politics, and he remains the longest-serving senator in Kentucky history. His historic service is marked by courageous legislation, a stronger national defense, and a transformation of the federal judiciary. During his service as Majority Leader, he led Senate confirmation of three justices and 30 percent of circuit court judges nationwide.

Senator McCONNELL and I share a mutual mentor from southern Kentucky, the late Senator John Sherman Cooper. Senator McCONNELL's success in public service reflects the many values that Senator Cooper shared with us, including unwavering perseverance, wisdom in negotiations, visionary leadership, and astutely serving as a "consummate bridge builder," as Senator McCONNELL once described our mentor.

Together, we have partnered on countless projects for the benefit of our fellow Kentuckians, and I count it a great honor to call Senator McCONNELL a close friend and valiant ally in public service. I applaud Senator McCONNELL on achieving this significant milestone in American history and I wish him continued success on behalf of the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

CELEBRATING MARY GATTON'S SELFLESS CARE FOR PATIENTS AND FAMILIES

HON. TERESA LEGER FERNANDEZ

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2023

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate Mary Gatton for her selfless commitment to the care of cancer victims, the terminally ill, and their families. Ms. Gatton recently received Business First's 'Lifetime Achievement Award' as a part of the Health Care Heroes program.

At age 79, Ms. Gatton has spent much of her adult life supporting sick patients, the dying, and their families, through her work at Hospice/Hosparus Health, Inc. and Gilda's Club.

Many struggle to find words of comfort for those experiencing grief and loss, but not Ms. Gatton; she is truly 'there' for those in need, whether sitting at hospital bedsides with dying patients, in the waiting rooms with family members helping provide peace and understanding, facilitating a support group, comforting a newly diagnosed or newly bereaved person, leading a memorial service, or simply assisting at an event to support patients and caregivers.

As a single mother of four children, Ms. Gatton pursued a bachelor's degree in social work in 1977, in the hopes that hospice care would one day make its way to the U.S. The National Hospice Organization wasn't even

created until 1978, when it then began to promote the concept of hospice care. Congress passed a provision to create a Medicare hospice benefit in the 1980s, by which time Gatton had earned a master's degree in social work.

Karen Morrison, CEO of Gilda's Club explains, "The number of lives Mary has touched in her career is immeasurable. Everywhere I go in the community, people remember the impact she made for them . . ."

Ms. Gatton is a shining example of the dedication that defines end-of-life care. I offer my congratulations to Ms. Gatton for her well-deserved award and thank her from the bottom of my heart for her loving care of our families and departed loved ones. She is an Angel.

HONORING SHIRLENE ANDERSON

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2023

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable individual, Ms. Anderson.

Shirlene Anderson is the former deputy director of the Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics (MBN), where she retired after 32 years of service. Shirlene's law enforcement career began in 1976, when Doris Johnson-Holt and Shirlene Anderson made history together, becoming the first 2 Black/African American females to serve as agents of the Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics (MBN).

When Shirlene Anderson was promoted through the ranks from Agent, to Sergeant, Lieutenant, Captain, Major to Lieutenant Colonel she became the first female. During her tenure with MBN, she served as District Supervisor of a field office responsible for narcotics operations in 10 counties.

She also served as Regional Supervisor of 4 field offices in North MS (Greenwood, Oxford, Tupelo and Starkville). In October 1997, she was appointed as Chief of Enforcement/Deputy Director, (Lieutenant Colonel) where she managed enforcement operations for the entire State of Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics.

Shirlene retired in 2004 from the Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics. On July 7, 2005, Shirlene Anderson was appointed first female Chief of Police for the City of Jackson, MS Police Department (Capital City). Shirlene is a graduate of Mississippi Valley State University where she completed her bachelor's degree in education.

She is a graduate of the Mississippi Highway Patrol Class 47B, Sep 1991 (MLEOTA, Whitfield, MS). She also graduated from the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) National Academy and The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) National Academy. Shirlene volunteers with a program, "Getting Ahead while Getting Out" with the Central Mississippi Correctional Facility and a Board Member of Alcohol Services Center, Inc.

Shirlene has volunteered with the National Federation of the Blind, and Mississippi Commission for Volunteer Service/Connect 1 Summits. Shirlene is a lifetime member of National Organization of Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE), Mississippi Valley State University Alumni, and a Member of Pleasant Springs Baptist Church in Leland, MS.

Some of the State and Federal drug investigation cases Shirlene was involved in: Frederick Dotson, Greenville, MS seized firearms, crack, powder Cocaine and money during the investigation; James "J. J." McNeil, California millionaire and drug kingpin, heroin, cocaine, and marijuana; Jeff Fort, Chicago, IL and MS conspiracy, drugs, and weapons conviction; Fort Co-founder and leader of Black P. Stones and Founder of El Rukn Chicago; James Albert "Sonny" King Tallahatchie County, Hattie Ray King, Johnny Wayne King, and Jerome Lewis charged in distributing of cocaine and marijuana.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Shirlene Anderson for her dedication and tenacity to serving her community and desire to be an example for all.

RECOGNIZING MR. RON EVANS

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2023

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize a special resident of Center, Missouri.

Mr. Ron Evans has served on the school board in Ralls County, Missouri for 30 years. In 1967, Ron graduated from Mark Twain High School. His wife, Judy, their 3 children, and several grandchildren have all been students at Mark Twain High School. He was elected to the Ralls County R-II School Board in 1993 and went on to serve 9 more three-year terms, at times serving as President.

Over the course of Ron's 30 years of service to the district, many changes have occurred including the consolidation of all Ralls County communities into one education building. Ron has been involved with more than \$20 million dollars of renovations and projects.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Ron Evans on his retirement. I ask you to join me in thanking him for his service to his community and for being an outstanding leader. I am proud to represent Mr. Evans in the United States House of Representatives.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF ALFRED HOFFMEISTER

HON. MARK DeSAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2023

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and service of Alfred "Al" Hoffmeister.

Al was born in New York and was named after former governor of New York, Alfred Emanuel Smith. Throughout his life, Al has exemplified his dedication to his community and his country. Al was a World War II veteran, serving in the U.S. Army Air Corps working with B-17 Flying Fortress—China/Burma/India Theater. Following his service, he studied business administration at St. John's University. He then began working as a metal trading manager with Kaiser Aluminum of Oakland, California where he met his future wife, Georgia Belle Davis.

Al and Georgia moved to Concord, California in 1962 to start their family and have lived there ever since. Al worked for Kaiser for 25 years, retiring from the organization in 1989. In his retirement, he remained active and engaged with the community. He was a strong advocate for our community's youth, serving as a leader with the YMCA, on the Concord American Little League Board, and working with the Boy and Girl Scouts of America. Al was also dedicated to his faith and was an original member of St. Bonaventure Catholic Church where he served as an usher for many years.

Sadly, Al passed away on December 9, 2022 at the age of 98. He is survived by his wife Georgia, daughter Laura, sons Stephen, Thomas, and Philip, sister Dorothy, and nine grandchildren, Tessa, Hannah, Trent, Hope, Grace, Jacqueline, Johnathan, Matthew, and Erik. He will be remembered for his humility, hard-working nature, and devotion to his family. Please join me in honoring Alfred Hoffmeister for his many contributions to our community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. FRANK J. MRVAN

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2023

Mr. MRVAN. Mr. Speaker, on March 1, 2023, I was absent from the House floor and missed roll call vote 125.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 125.

CONGRATULATING DIRECTOR
DAVID BEASLEY**HON. JOE WILSON**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2023

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am grateful for the leadership of United Nations World Food Programme Executive Director and former South Carolina Governor David Beasley. Over the past six years during his term, he has been a strong advocate,

fundraiser, and leader, and I am grateful to have worked with him personally in Guatemala in 2017 and with volunteers from Lebanon in 2020.

Congress appreciates David's work with us in achieving historic levels of American funding to confront global hunger demands. His humanitarian efforts and work in the global fight against hunger is an inspiration to all.

David's efforts were recognized when the Norwegian Nobel Committee awarded the World Food Programme the 2020 Nobel Peace Prize.

I am grateful for David's hard work during his term as Executive Director and wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors.

I look forward to working with the newly appointed Executive Director, Ambassador Cindy McCain, who currently serves as the U.S. Permanent Representative to the U.N. Agencies in Rome: the Food and Agriculture Organization, the World Food Programme, and the International Fund for Agriculture Development.

America will continue to be the world leader for humanitarian assistance for the benefit of those impacted as it promotes America material security reducing international instability.